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IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Alication of:

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In re the Application of:

KOSUGA et al

Serial No .:

Filed: March 12, 2001

For:

WORK CHUCKING/INSERTING APPARATUS

AND ASSEMBLING UNIT

PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT

Assistant Commissioner for Patents Washington, D.C. 20231

Sir:

Please amend the captioned application as follows:

IN THE CLAIMS:

Please rewrite claims 6-9 and 14-16 as follows:

6. (Amended) A work chucking/inserting apparatus according to claim 1, further including a tracer mechanism which, when the outer surfaces of said chuck fingers or of said hole position detecting fingers come into contact with the inlet of said insertion hole, causes the axis of a conical surface defined by the outer surfaces of said three or more chuck fingers or of said three or more hole position detecting fingers to be aligned with the axis of said insertion hole.